

ABL WEEKLY

POLICY, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS NEWS FOR BEVERAGE RETAILERS

Friday, August 2, 2019

Issue 392

MEETINGS & EVENTS

[September 12 - IABR Fall Golf Outing | Indianapolis, IN](#)

[September 15-17 - ILBA Annual Convention & Tradeshow | LaSalle, IL](#)

[October 9 - NYSLA 10th Annual Albany Holiday Trade Show | Albany, NY](#)

[October 10 - IABR Annual Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting | Indianapolis, IN](#)

[October 14-17 - TLW 84th Annual Fall Convention | Green Bay, WI](#)

[October 15 - NYSLA 10th Annual Buffalo Holiday Trade Show | Buffalo, NY](#)

[October 21-23 - ABL Fall Board Meeting & Industry Meetings | Washington, DC](#)

ABL & PUBLIC POLICY NEWS:

[For Retailers, Trump's Tariff Announcement Is Personal:](#)

Retail company shares were among the hardest stocks hit on Thursday after Trump's tariff announcement. While previous tariffs mainly targeted components of consumer goods, the new tariffs will apply largely to things people buy directly. That will raise the cost of everyday purchases and force retailers to either increase prices or eat the cost of the tariffs, putting pressure on their margins.

[The Dominican Republic Isn't the Only Place Worried About Fake Liquor Killing Tourists:](#)

The news about the tragic deaths of several American tourists in the Dominican Republic in May 2019 has created an outcry and a media frenzy. As of June 30, there were at least nine deaths with similar circumstances in the past few months. The FBI and Dominican authorities are investigating, and one theory is that alcohol was the cause of these deaths.

[Federal ADA Title III Lawsuit Numbers Continue to Climb in 2019:](#)

The task of counting the number of ADA Title III lawsuits filed in federal courts grows with the ever-increasing numbers of lawsuits. For the period from January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019, our research team counted 5,592 ADA Title III lawsuits filed in federal court, versus 4,965

[Capitol Hill Panelist Uses Puppets to Explain Music Modernization Act, Licensing:](#)

The Music Modernization Act signed into law last October, meant to ensure that songwriters, artists and producers are paid fairly for music licensing, is a game-changer for music stakeholders -- but it's also notoriously difficult to understand. And that's how Kevin Erickson, director of the nonprofit musician advocacy organization Future of Music Coalition, came to own a bunch of puppets.

[Why Lawmakers Are Warning People Traveling Abroad About Tainted Liquor:](#)

With the deaths of several Americans in the Dominican Republic over the past couple of months, tainted liquor is believed to have contributed to the victim's deaths. Counterfeit alcohol isn't discussed in the United States based on strict regulations, but it's a problem overseas. Now lawmakers and industry experts are warning people traveling abroad on the risks of tainted liquor.

[Study: Adults Binge Drink Just As Much As College Students:](#)

College students have long been criticized for drinking way too much alcohol in way too short a time. But they're not the only ones. A new study finds binge drinking to be a habit among some senior citizens, too. Just more than 10% of older adults binge drink, putting them at risk for

filed in first six months of 2018. That's a 12% increase.

Senate Considering America's

Transportation Infrastructure Act: Senate Environment & Public Works (EPW) Committee Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-Del.) are scheduled to move July 30 a bipartisan bill, entitled the America's Transportation Infrastructure Act (ATIA), out of their committee.

health problems, according to findings published Wednesday in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

INDUSTRY NEWS:

Alcohol & Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau (TTB): [TTB Newsletter – Weekly News \(August 2\)](#)

3x3 Insights: [Retail Untapped - Episode 34, Pt. 2: Why Canned Spirits Are Here to Stay](#)

Alcohol Law Advisor: [Cannabis and Hemp Update](#)

IWSR: [Consumer Lifestyle Choices Continue to Drive Innovation in Global Beverage Alcohol](#)

Law360: [Beer Giant Battles Employees In \\$50M Wage Suit](#)

Law.com: [SCOTUS Alcohol Sales Decision Predictable, Not Revolutionary](#)

NACS: [Emerging Trends for the Alcoholic Drink Industry](#)

National Beer Wholesalers Association: [Beer Distributors Join with Sierra Nevada to Aid Wildfire Victims](#)

Nielsen: [How Local Bars Can Benefit From a Taste of the Past](#)

Shanken News Daily: [RNDC, Young's Market Finalize Joint Venture Deal](#)

Wine Spectator: [French Wine Could Be the Latest Trade War Target](#)

CANNABIS NEWS:

A Breathalyzer for Cannabinoids?: With the legalization of medical and recreational marijuana, there has been a rise in the use of cannabinoid products and thus, increased demand for techniques that can measure the levels of cannabinoids in the human body. Just as alcohol is measured using a breathalyzer, law enforcement officers also want to measure the levels of cannabinoids in the breath.

Is Cannabis Use the Same As Off-Duty Drinking by Workers? Many Companies Still Say No: An employee has a beer or two with colleagues at a local bar after the work shift is over. Another heads home for a glass of wine with dinner. The next day, there is no alcohol

Legalizing Marijuana Deliveries Can Reduce Impaired Driving, Colorado Governor Says: Colorado Gov. Jared Polis (D) said on Friday that legalizing the home delivery of marijuana products is one way his state is working to reduce impaired driving. During a panel on roadway safety at the National Governors Association's 2019 Summer Meeting in Utah, Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey (R) raised the issue of impaired driving from cannabis.

Legal U.S. Cannabis Sales Could Hit \$41 Billion by 2025: The market for legalized cannabis, including CBD, could quintuple from \$8 billion in 2018 to \$41 billion by 2025, according to new data from Nielsen, the consumer research organization. During the

impairment in the worker, and that's why an employer would not have a problem with either of these scenarios.

past four years, the range of CBD edibles and related products has grown significantly.

INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT:



The [Draught Beer Quality Manual](#) is an indispensable resource for brewers, wholesalers, retailers, and draught system installers. Prepared by the Brewers Association Technical Committee, this fourth edition includes updated best practices, detailed information about line cleaning, draught system components and design, gas dispense and balance, proper pouring, sanitation and growlers is organized with your needs in mind. The goal is simple – to improve draught beer quality and ensure that beer makes it into the consumer's glass as the brewer intends.

STATE & LOCAL NEWS:

[Alabama: Study Task Force Aims to Legalize Direct Wine Shipments:](#) A person can't legally ship wine directly to their house in Alabama. However, a task force to study the direct shipment of wine met Tuesday with the goal to find a way to legalize it. Last session there were at least seven bills dealing with the direct shipment of wine that failed, according to Sen. Jabo Waggoner, R-Birmingham.

[Alabama: It Will Soon Be Easier to Start Sunday Alcohol Sales:](#) A change to Alabama law will make it easier for cities and counties to begin Sunday alcohol sales. Starting on Aug. 1, city councils and county commissions in areas where alcohol sales are already allowed can authorize Sunday sales by

[New York: Marijuana No Longer a Crime, but Still Illegal: What You Need to Know:](#) New York just adopted a law that decriminalizes the vast majority of marijuana use. But don't plan on lighting up a joint in Clinton Square anytime soon. That's because possessing small amounts of pot is still against the law under the legislation signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Monday. There's a difference between decriminalizing marijuana and legalizing it.

[New York: Governor Signs Bill Decriminalizing Marijuana Use:](#) The penalties for possessing and smoking marijuana in New York will be loosened in 30 days under a new law that supporters say will lead to fewer arrests for users of the drug. Gov. Andrew

ordinance, resolution or referendum without first seeking legislative approval.

Florida: Court Rules Vertical Integration Is Unconstitutional: There might be some significant changes coming to the Florida cannabis industry as a Florida court rules that vertical integration is "unconstitutional." This ruling comes four months after the Florida House rescinded a ban on smoking medical marijuana. Meanwhile, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' reversed his position and walked back his stance on vertical integration.

Illinois: A Bigger Boost for Video Gaming?: So far in 2019, there have been 1,344 active video gaming machines played in La Salle, Bureau and Putnam counties. By the end of the year, that number has the potential to increase significantly due to recent changes in the legislation surrounding video gambling in Illinois. When the new gaming bill passed through the Illinois Legislature in June, it implemented sports betting and expanded the casino market.

Illinois: Chicago Is Counting on a Casino Windfall, but Indiana Gambling Rivals Are Renovating, Expanding: As Chicago considers five possible locations for a casino, an Indiana gambling facility just across the state line is making expansion plans of its own. Spectacle Entertainment, which owns two Lake Michigan riverboat casinos in Gary, announced plans earlier this month to move those gambling operations to a 40-acre site adjacent to Interstate 80/94.

Maryland: Owner of Wine Storage Facility Sentenced to Prison for Stealing Nearly \$1.5M Worth of Wine from Clients: The owner of a high-end wine storage facility was sentenced to federal prison for embezzling his customers. William Holder, 54, of Hanover, Maryland, was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for stealing between \$550,000 and \$1.5 million worth of wine from his clients, primarily private collectors and commercial establishments.

Missouri: Restaurant Owners Organize to Oppose Drink Special Restrictions: Local restaurants and bars are voicing their concerns about proposed drink special regulations. The regulations would prevent places from being able to have drink specials,

Cuomo on Monday signed into law a bill that sets the fine for possessing up to an ounce of marijuana at \$50 and up to two ounces at \$200.

North Carolina: Gov. Signs Bill Letting Distilleries Sell Alcohol On-Site: Liquor lovers can raise a toast after Gov. Roy Cooper signed Senate Bill 290 into law. The measure is aimed at helping distilleries boost business and sell alcohol in the state. The governor signed the bill Monday afternoon at Graybeard Distillery in Durham. The new law gives distilleries the right to serve cocktails on-site and sell more alcohol in house.

North Carolina: Pets Allowed in Breweries, Distilleries Can Sell Alcohol During Tours: Liquor lovers can raise a toast after Gov. Roy Cooper signed Senate Bill 290 into law. The measure is aimed at helping distilleries boost business and sell alcohol in the state. The governor signed the bill Monday afternoon at Graybeard Distillery in Durham.

North Carolina: HB91 Would Scrap ABC Stores, Permit Retail and Sunday Liquor Sales: This week, lawmakers unveiled the latest version of a bill that would overhaul North Carolina's liquor sales. Big changes include replacing government-run ABC stores with privatized stores, permitting liquor sales at retail stores, and allowing liquor to be sold on Sundays if cities or counties vote to allow it.

Oregon: Legislative Proposals Cause Cracks in State's Wine Industry: It was during a sales trip to China in 2017 that Ken Wright knew Willamette Valley wine had arrived on the world stage. "Not only did they know of the Willamette Valley, they knew how to say it correctly and they associated it immediately with Pinot noir," said Wright, founder of Ken Wright Cellars in Carlton, Ore. "Honestly, I was surprised."

Washington: New Social Media Rules for Breweries Now in Effect: Attention breweries: you are now free to tweet at will! Until yesterday, Washington's liquor laws included rules forbidding breweries from promoting events via their social media channels. The rules pertained to events at pubs, festivals, charity fundraisers, and so on, but not events at the brewery's own location. The pub or

such as two for ones, bottomless cups, or samples. It would also set the prices for drinks based on alcohol sales at each establishment.

festival organizers could promote the event, but the brewery could not.

Wisconsin: Sober Bars Are Catching on in the U.S. but State's Drinking Culture May Make Them a Tough Sell Here: If someone asked you about nightlife in Wisconsin that doesn't involve alcohol, you might be at a loss. You might even tell them to go elsewhere. And you'd be right — there are few things to do at night that don't involve getting at least a little buzzed on a Spotted Cow or a can of Miller High Life.

BUSINESS & LIFESTYLE NEWS:

Beam Suntory to Build New Kentucky Distillery As Part of \$60 Million Investment:

Beam Suntory has begun construction on its newest production facility, the Fred B. Noe Craft Distillery, to be based in Clermont, Kentucky. The new distillery is part of a \$60 million investment behind its James B. Beam Distilling Co. unit intended to enhance its innovation and hospitality facilities.

Canned Cocktails Give Millennials What They've Always Desired: Over the past year, the dark cans of stout in the corner of my local grocery store's craft-beer fridge have given way to lighter, smaller containers. I didn't stop to inspect these new offerings until a pink box with a palm-frond print—a Bat-Signal for middle-class Millennial women—caught my eye.

The Best Beers to Take a Bite Out of Shark Week: The greatest week of the summer is upon us. Yes, we're talking about Shark Week. Since 1988, we've eagerly awaited the annual magical Discovery Channel week honoring the terrifying ocean predator. In addition to bingeing on shark documentaries, we're celebrating this year's Shark Week (July 28 – Aug. 4) with our favorite shark-themed beers. Check them all out below — and watch out for fins!

Think Pink – Breaking Down the Runaway Success of Natural Light's Naturdays: There have been lots of successful beer debuts in 2019, from Hazy IPAs like Official from Bell's Brewery to tart styles like Dogfish Head Brewery's SuperEIGHT Gose to Alaskan Brewing Company's crisp and clean Kölsch.

The Best Beers to Chase Down This August:

August is a strange month for beer releases. The end-of-summer-month bridges three big seasons. While July heralded in light, fizzy, fruity, funky beers that were perfect for sipping in the shade, September, and October mean it's time for Oktoberfest lagers and autumn pumpkin ales. It's getting close to the harvest season and that means it's time to start drinking some serious, albeit still light beers.

Big Alcohol Is Pouring Billions into Weed Drinks, but Does Anybody Want It?: It's 2019, and Big Alcohol wants in on legal pot - but only on its own terms. One by one, the largest beer companies in the world have announced their intention to create drinkable marijuana products. So brace yourself for an onslaught of alcohol-free weed beers and weed seltzers and weed fruit punches.

Molson Coors CEO Steps Down Amid Sales Slump: Molson Coors Brewing Co. said its chief executive is stepping down as the company struggles with declining sales and a consumer shift away from light lagers to Mexican imports, craft beers, wine and spirits. Mark Hunter, who oversaw the acquisition of MillerCoors, making Molson the No. 2 brewer in the U.S., will retire in September, the company said.

Wine.com Launching Spirits in California, New York, Florida and New Jersey: Already the world's largest wine store with over 15,000 wines, Wine.com now offers a selection of over 2,000 spirits, including rare and collectible items not easily found in stores.

But few have made a splash quite like Naturdays.

'Bottled in Bond' Was Created to Protect Drinkers in the 1800s. Now the Label Has a New Appeal:

Tasting spirits is usually a pleasure. There are so many great sips today, from old great whiskeys to creative upstart bottles from an explosion of small distillers. It's a golden age of tippling. But there are times when I've paused.

The Craft Beer Industry Has a Diversity

Problem: Does craft beer have a diversity problem? Of course it does. I bring this up because of a recent racial profiling incident in New York state at an Angry Orchard Hard Cider farm owned by Boston Beer Co., the maker of Sam Adams.

With many wine enthusiasts enjoying premium spirits and craft cocktails at home, Wine.com will delight consumers with the ease of one-stop shopping for all their wine and spirits online.

Binge Drinking Among Older Americans Is on the Rise, New Study Finds:

A new study estimates more than one in 10 older Americans binge drink. That's an increase from the previous decade. The study, out this morning from the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, determined binge drinkers 65 and older were more likely to be men; they're also more likely to use tobacco or cannabis.

How Robot Tongues Are Measuring Taste for the Food and Beverage Industry:

The matter of taste and how it is influenced by external factors is a subject of fascination for many people (witness the proliferation of polls about which sense you would give up if needed, for example). In the foodservice industry, the question of how people perceive flavors is big business, used to predict upcoming food trends and what will resonate with tomorrow's fickle diner.